

Riitta Bolton named Sherwood assistant principal

DAN W. COSTELLO
SHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Riitta Bolton joins the staff at Sherwood Middle School as Assistant Principal. Mrs. Bolton is familiar to many in Shrewsbury as she has worked for eleven years in the district at the Paton and Floral Elementary Schools. She emerged as the strongest candidate in a talented pool of almost thirty applicants.

Mrs. Bolton has taught both fourth and fifth grade in Shrewsbury, and most recently served as Media Specialist at the Paton School. In this capacity, Bolton worked with all teachers in all subjects. She maintained the school's Media Center and also led the technology-integration effort at Paton. She is highly regarded by parents, students, and staff alike.

The Search Committee was looking for many qualities as they sorted through the potential candidates. The team included: Ginny Aikens, Stephanie Aubin, Cindy Barhoff, Kevin Donahue, Gail Goodness, Tom Kennedy, and Leslie Wortzman. Ultimately, the Search Committee interviewed eight candidates. The list was narrowed to two finalists, both of whom spent the day in mid-June at Sherwood Middle School meeting many constituencies: students, staff, parents and administrators. At the conclusion of the day-long visit, it was obvious that Bolton was the right person for the job.

Four members of the committee spent several hours at Paton meeting with parents, students and staff, all of whom had wonderful things to say about Mrs. Bolton's talent and dedication to the school.

Mrs. Bolton brings many qualities to Sherwood that will benefit the students and the overall program that we will offer. First and foremost, she is an



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

Riitta Bolton

expert in teaching and learning. Her experience with the fifth grade teachers and curriculum will be invaluable. She has already served as a mentor to many fifth grade teachers who will be working at Sherwood this fall.

Additionally, Bolton has received the appropriate training and education for this key administrative role. She suc-

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Riitta Bolton,
SHERWOOD ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

cessfully completed the Innovative Program for the Preparation of Administrators (IPPA), which was a collaborative educational program for Shrewsbury and nearby districts. Mrs. Bolton completed the (IPPA) program with Mrs. Jane Lizotte, recently appointed the Principal of the Spring Street Elementary School. The (IPPA) program has obviously met its stated goal of preparing administrators from within the district.

Mrs. Bolton has been very involved in education in Shrewsbury throughout her career. She served on the School Council of both the Paton and Floral Street Schools, and she has been a part of numerous studies and committees over the years. Most recently she coordinated the district's very well received PTO Parent Education program. Bolton put together a series of workshops for Shrewsbury's parents that was attended by hundreds of parents from the community at all of the district's elementary schools.

Mrs. Bolton looks forward to working with the students and staff at Sherwood Middle School. "I would like to make Sherwood a positive and vigorous learning community where everyone works for a common goal - success for every student," Bolton said. "I hope to help bring together veteran and new staff, parents and students to create the best learning community for all."

Riitta Bolton is a welcome addition to the Sherwood Middle School staff. Her elementary school background will prove invaluable to the fifth grade students, teachers and parents. Her experience and expertise will strengthen the administrative team, that also includes Fred Randall (sixth grade Assistant Principal). We are fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated educator at our school.

MVP's welcome at the high school

This fall, Shrewsbury High will be launching its new and improved version of the Mentor Volunteer Program (MVP.) It's the high school's version of the "Big Brother/ Big Sister Program."

The Mentor Volunteer Program for the past seven years has focused on high school students mentoring middle school eighth-graders. The main goal of the MVP was to help the eighth-grade students adapt to the high school and to have the high school mentors help the younger students with peer pressure and homework.

NICK PANARELLI

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR



The program has changed its focus for the 2004-2005 school year. Each incoming freshman will be paired up with a junior or senior. The group will meet four or five times throughout the year to help maintain the contact between the mentor and the younger student.

Teachers Gerald O'Connell and Jennifer Brown have joined me as advisor/directors with advice on strengthening the program. An advisory committee consisting of students, Joe Ryan, Anne McCarthy and Stephanie Marden will assist us with the selection of events and the pairings of the mentors and younger students.

Do you remember what it felt like to be the youngest at the High School?

Involvement of over 500 students is expected for the upcoming school year.

Previously the program ran for three years before it was discontinued. When the program resumed I volunteered as director because I remembered how important my mentor had been to me and wanted the program to continue for others.

I enjoy helping people make new friendships that will hopefully last beyond high school. I was an eighth-grader in the former MVP program and even to this day I stay in contact with my mentor who is now a senior in college. This is a great program and hope others will take advantage of what the MVP has to offer and keep it going after I graduate.

We hope to bring outside organizations in for mentor training with the goal of making the mentors better role models.

Donations from the following in-town businesses will help us to achieve our that.

We thank, Dunkin Donuts, Dominos Pizza, QAC Catering and the Shrewsbury High School Alumni Association for their support.

Start of school information

Start times, from page 1

Bus Information

Parents will receive specific bus numbers and bus stop assignments by letter in early August. Please do not call schools for this information. If you have a specific problem or do not receive the bus information letter by August 18th, please call Linda Sweet, Transportation Coordinator, at 508 841-8408.

Parker Road and Little Colonials Preschools

Preschool classes for the Little Colonials Program and the Parker Road Preschool begin on a staggered schedule that is communicated directly to parents of students enrolled in these programs. Only students with special needs are transported to preschool by buses. All other students must be transported by parent(s)/guardian(s).

Beal Kindergarten

Kindergarten students follow a special staggered schedule designed to introduce them to school. Please see further information on this schedule elsewhere in this publication

Beal School Incoming Family Information

Parent Orientation (for parents only, please) will be held on the following dates:

August 25, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. for

Morning Kindergarten Parents

August 26, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. for Afternoon and Full-Day Kindergarten Parents

Classroom Visit and Bus Ride

Tuesday, August 31, 2004

All children will meet their classroom teacher and some classmates. The brief classroom visit (30 minutes) will be followed by a bus ride. One parent may accompany the child on the bus ride.

This session is optional, and we realize that some working parents may have difficulty attending this session. We have found, however, that children who have this experience feel much more comfortable coming to kindergarten independently on the first day. Specific times will be sent to parents in the summer letter.

First Day of School

The start of school is staggered for children and each child's first day has been communicated in the registration letter. The first full day for all children together is Friday, September 3, 2004. Bus service is provided on both September 1st and 2nd.

Please visit the Beal website at www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/beal, go to Beal Links, and Ready for Kindergarten.

Incoming Students School Tours

All incoming students and their families are invited to the schools tours

listed below. As these tours are prior to the start of the school year, teachers will not be available. Parents should plan to meet teachers on Curriculum nights.

Coolidge School (grades 1-4)

Friday, August 27, 2004 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Floral Street School (grades 1-4)

Monday, August 30, 2004 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Spring Street School (grades 1-4)

Tuesday, August 24, 2004 from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.

Paton School (grades 1-4)

Monday, August 30, 2004 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Sherwood Middle School (grades 5-6)

Monday, August 23, 2004 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. for Grade 5
Tuesday, August 24, 2004 from 5:00 to 7:20 p.m. for Grade 6

Oak Middle School (grades 7-8)

Wednesday Sept. 8th
Grade 7 5:30pm-6:30pm
Grade 8 7pm-8pm

Shrewsbury High School (grades 9-12)

Orientation for Grade 9 students/families on Thursday, August 26, 2004 at 6:30 p.m.

Orientation for Grade 10-12 students/families on Monday, August 30, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

Shrewsbury welcomes Jane Lizotte as the new principal of Spring Street School.